CONSTELLATION
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District helps develop watershed resources registry

By Tina Carlsen
Public Affairs Office

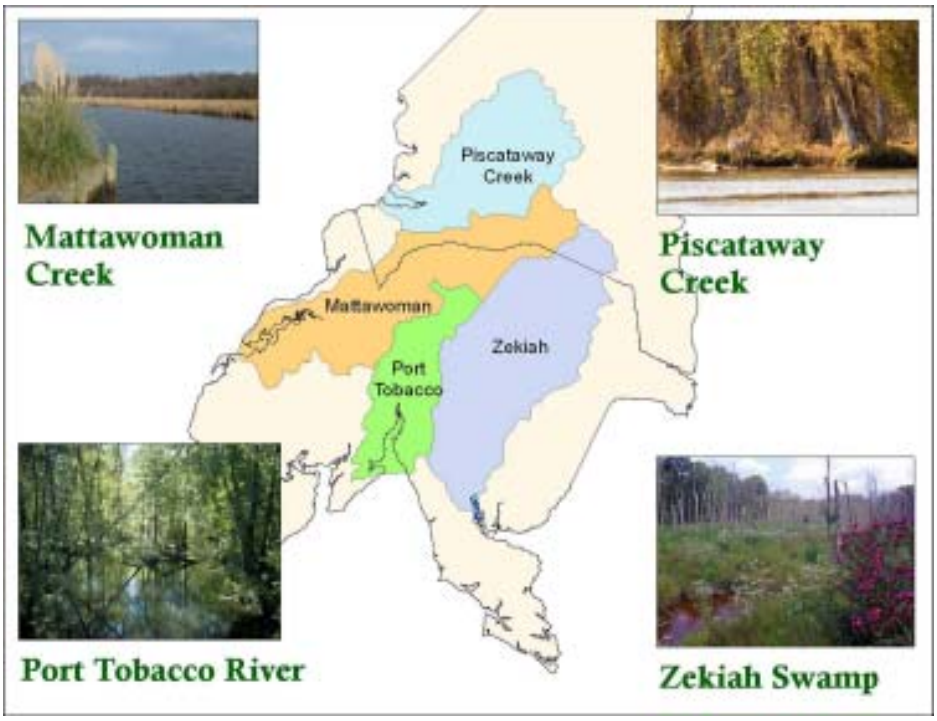

Photo courtesy of Environmental Protection Agency Region III

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District is helping to develop a Watershed Resources Registry as part of a joint effort to improve watershed planning and protect valuable environmental resources.

The Army Corps of Engineers, along with other federal, state and local authorities, are charged with minimizing impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources.

When these resources must be impacted, applicants are required to offer compensatory wetlands to mitigate this impact. The registry is a screening tool designed to improve the process of locating these compensatory wetlands.

The registry will help the project manager at the Corps identify both *what* a particular watershed might need to protect ecosystem health, and *where* that activity might be most beneficial.

For example, a watershed that is primarily agricultural might benefit from the restoration and re-creation of wooded buffers along streams. The registry would identify this need and then find suitable sites where stream restoration could occur.

"The registry will help regulators and planners from different agencies and programs characterize and identify potential watershed needs, as well as target suitable opportunity sites for protection and restoration of important resources," said Ellen Bryson, a geographer for the Regulatory Branch in Operations Division. Ms. Bryson served as the principal geographic information systems manager for the project.

Watershed planning uses a holistic approach to managing watershed resources, as opposed to traditional site-specific management. The Watershed Resources Registry is a geographic information system-based mapping tool designed to address priority resource goals such as water quality, habitat, stormwater management and forests, integrate multiple programs such as regulatory and voluntary, and incorporate existing strategic watershed plans into a single database.

The development of the Watershed Resources Registry grew from the Green Highways Partnership, which is comprised of federal and state agencies, industry, nonprofit organizations and others that promote green practices for transportation projects, and a project proposed by the Maryland State Highway Administration, or MDSHA, for Route 301 in Prince Georges and Charles Counties.

A two-day work session in 2007, coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the MDSHA, focused on ways that the Route 301 project could become a green highway by using recycled materials, porous pavement, new stormwater technology and other green techniques.

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Commander's Comment

Capturing the *'Culture of Discipline'* with QMS

By Col. Dave Anderson
Baltimore District Engineer

We all recall the days of office Standard Operating Procedures, job books or continuity books. They were all intended to capture the best way that an office, section, division, or District did business. Unfortunately they were usually outdated when they went to the printer. Now that we've entered the digital age, wouldn't it be great if those arcane sources could be available online, be updated regularly, and reflect the very best and most efficient way of doing business? That day is upon us!

The Corps of Engineers is adopting the Quality Management System. The system is a web-based toolbox of standard business processes – roadmaps of the best and most efficient way to accomplish our work. It's accessible worldwide, and will significantly enhance our ability to deliver superior products and services. The purpose of this USACE-wide initiative is to provide a web-based platform for the purpose of:

• Documenting the most efficient and effective processes that can used by everyone who is working on similar tasks, USACE-wide;

• Refining national processes to meet unique local requirements within the District. These are referred to as *Supplemental Processes* within the QMS;

• Continuously improving and looking for the most efficient way of doing things; and

• Using a disciplined approach in managing improvements and changes.

Implementation is underway. Initial operational procedures for the implementing QMS in the North Atlantic Division were published in November 2009. We established our District QMS site in June. Training for supervisors rolls out later this month, with employee training to follow.

You can explore and get familiar with QMS right now, by clicking on the 'Star' icon on your desktop, or go to https://kme/usace.army/mil/CE/QMS.

QMS will help ensure a 'culture of discipline' by documenting the best business processes for all USACE organizations, capturing lessons learned, and allowing for continuous improvement of our processes. QMS also has built-in flexibility, allowing us to supplement Corps processes to account for unique ways of doing business here in the Baltimore District.

To make these **best** processes our **standard way of doing business**, leaders need to be committed to the system, and we all need to be involved by utilizing the process and by submitting our own ideas of how we can do things better.

In the end, this is all about our customers. If aggressively implemented and properly utilized, QMS will help us deliver truly superior products, every single time, no matter where in the Corps or where in the world we might find ourselves. Its implementation is another important mile marker on our road from 'Good' to 'Great!'

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

CONSTELLATION

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District's Speakers Bureau Program needs you!

Story and photo by Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Do you enjoy speaking to students about how you began working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers? How about talking to community groups and organizations about the Corps' mission? Then the District's Speakers Bureau Program is for you!

The Speakers Bureau Program is a community-based outreach program that matches various schools, engineering societies, and professional organizations with speakers and presenters from the Baltimore District.

The program is managed by the Public Affairs Office and gives employees the opportunity to speak on a number of topics related to Corps of Engineers work in the region.

Larry Mathena, a civil engineer in the Engineering Division, has participated in numerous speaking engagements, including a career day at Dumbarton Middle School in April for the fifth consecutive year.

"I like the probing questions that I usually get from the students about my career," said Mathena. "It shows that they have an interest in engineering, and it makes me reflect on why I became an engineer."

Some employees use this opportunity to not just speak about themselves and their career, but they also use it to hone their public speaking skills.

"Speaking to groups helps me to keep my public speaking skills fresh," said Kate O'Mara, a program analyst in the Programs and Project Management Division, who also recently spoke to students at a career day at Dumbarton Middle School. "It also gives me a chance to talk about topics that interest me and reflect on what I have accomplished."

Jordan Manos, chief of Office Engineering at the Defense Information Systems Agency at Fort Meade, spoke to college students at a seminar at Johns Hopkins University for the first time in March.

"I believe it is important for practicing engineers to mentor and develop our future colleagues and prepare them for the honorable practice of engineering," said Manos. "The students seemed enthused and engaged with the topics of discussion. In addition to the technical topics, I spent time speaking to them about LDRSHIP, which are not only Army values, but are the values of all ethical engineers."

Kate O'Mara, a program analyst in the Programs and Project Management Division, speaks to students at the Dumbarton Middle School Career Day. As part of the Speakers Bureau Program, District employees get the opportunity to visit schools, colleges, civic groups and organizations to talk about various topics related to the Corps of Engineers.

In addition to schools, District employees have spoken to community groups on topics such as the Chesapeake Bay, our Overseas Contingency Operations support, dredging, flood damage reduction, Base Realignment and Closure Act construction projects and the civil works program.

"It's important for employees to engage themselves in this type of program," said Capt. Joshua Thaniel, deputy commander for support operations. "We all have the responsibility to educate the public about our mission and what we do as an organization. We want to enhance their understanding of the Corps of Engineers and provide valuable resources for them. Employees who participate in this program will also have the opportunity to leave a lasting impression on their audience long after their presentation."

The Speakers Bureau Program is seeking volunteers for various speaking engagements.

For more information on joining Baltimore District's Speakers Bureau Program, contact Katisha Draughn at (410) 962-4088 or visit the Speakers Bureau section on the District's Internet at http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/publications/speak.htm.

ERDC shares capabilities with Baltimore District

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

Projects like the blocked fish migration on Holmes Run, shown here, require engineering and planning models for evaluation. Holmes Run is one of six upstream sub-watersheds of Cameron Run in northern Virginia.

Photo by Ben Soleimani

Baltimore District hosted Steven Ashby and Dave Richards, both from the Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., on July 8, to discuss the system-wide water resources program, or SWWRP.

SWWRP is a research and development program, initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is designed to assemble and integrate the diverse components of water resources management. During the visit, Ashby and Richards talked about the various services the program can provide and the ecological models that have been developed.

The program's goal is to provide the overall technological framework and analytical tools to balance human development activities with natural system requirements, achieve environmental sustainability, and restore and manage water resources to the Corps, its partners, and stakeholders, Ashby said.

The major products include software infrastructure, selected system-wide assessment models, and decision support and alternative evaluation systems.

At the meeting, Planning Division staff presented several projects in the District that require engineering and planning models for evaluation, to include a number of Baltimore District stream restoration projects, and studies on sediment behind dams, Upper Susquehanna River, Middle Potomac and Susquehanna low flow.

Ashby and Richards shared insight on how their models could be used on these projects.

Additionally, there is potential for ERDC to work with Baltimore District to use watershed modeling tools at military installations for various purposes.

"Most of the models developed in SWWRP are preferred or approved for use as engineering models," said Ashby. "Some do ecological processes and may or may not require approval or certification via planning. Right now it seems to be on a case-by-case basis."

The responsibility for certification of planning models lies with the Ecosystem Restoration Center of Expertise, or ECO-PCX, located in the Mississippi Valley Division.

"ECO-PCX relies on the agency technical review team to identify any potential issues with engineering models," said Jodi Staebbel, operational director for ECO-PCX. "The ECO-PCX is working with ERDC on review of models such as SWWRP tools that include both engineering and planning components."

The costs and time associated with the establishment of the processes and approval of these planning models have been an ongoing issue for potential project sponsors within the District and throughout the Corps of Engineers since its inception.

According to Staebbel, costs for review of planning models range from $100,000 to $150,000 and generally require six to nine months to complete.

"There is the potential for Headquarters funding for review of models with regional or national application, but there is not a regular funding source for model review," said Staebbel.

She said one cost-cutting measure could be pooling funds from multiple projects that might use the model.

Planning Division expressed a lot of interest in SWWRP and hopes to be able to draw on its capabilities.

"SWWRP is a valuable resource because of their modeling expertise, technical capabilities, and potential to provide funding to a project," said Dr. Angela Sowers, integrated water resource management specialist in PL. "We need to properly use their resources to get answers we are truly seeking."

Recent returnee shares deployment experience

Editor's Note: Don Snyder, Operations Division deputy chief, recently returned from a 6.5-month deployment to Afghanistan District, North Kabul, Afghanistan. While deployed, he was the Construction Branch chief. He shares his experiences in this article.

What was a typical day like when you were deployed?

Up at 0500 hours. Showers are limited to three minutes. Get dressed in uniform.

Breakfast at 0545 hours. Good food with omelets made to order.

0600 - Review overnight activity at area offices, check e-mail, check mission log, review intelligence reports, review daily schedule and prepare for commander's huddle.

0745 - Commander's huddle with senior staff. Review of the planned activities for the day, get security and intelligence brief.

0815 - Conference call to one of six area offices. Discuss status of construction, security issues, facilities need and personnel needs.

0945 through afternoon - Internal meetings with contracting, office of council and Programs and Project Management Division on status of construction projects.

When you get time - Lunch.

Afternoon - Series of weekly meetings, including the facilities board meeting (determine how to get needed resources and improved communication to the area offices) and the capacity development meeting (how to hire local nationals and teach them the construction business so they can carry on when U.S. troops leave). Coordination to keep the process moving on 273 construction contracts with 6 area offices, and a conference call with area offices, including contracting, PM, technical support folks to discuss status of each contract within that area office and keep on schedule.

Somewhere between 1700-1900 - Dinner. Food was good, but redundant. Overall, no complaints.

1900-2000 - Reach back calls to the states. Pending the day it could be with the personnel folks, deployment center, Winchester Engineering Division, Winchester contracting, etc. These were usually "troubleshooter calls" trying to resolve specific issues.

2000 until you are too tired to do any more - Review of resumes, telephone interviews, hiring personnel justification for hiring forms, and interim management document updates.

2000 until whenever - Review of intelligence report and pending missions for the following day.

What made you decide to volunteer to deploy?

I never had the opportunity to serve when I was younger, and I wanted to try to do my part. Also, the Corps asked me to serve.

What was the best thing about being deployed?

I was able to learn a lot. I learned about people in a different environment and how to manage those people.

What was the most challenging thing about your deployment?

Getting the paperwork completed so I could deploy. Once in country, the challenge was to learn the job and the processes being used as quickly as possible in order to complete the various aspects of the mission.

What advice would you give to someone considering deploying?

Talk to someone that has been there. Have "buy in" from your support structure at home and in the workplace. Be extremely flexible. The environment in Afghanistan changes very quickly and you need to able to deal with the changes. Stay focused on your mission when you get there.

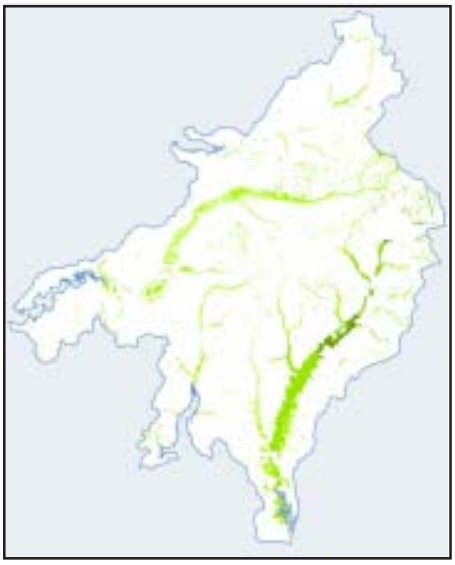
REGISTRY cont. from page 1

The session included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, both Headquarters and Baltimore District, the EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Federal Highway Administration, the MDSHA, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of Environmental, representatives from Charles and Prince George's Counties and non-governmental organizations, such as The Conservation Fund.

"As the group met and discussed their many overlapping program goals, the value of the registry became more and more apparent," Ms. Bryson said.

When funding for the transportation improvements ended, the group continued to work together.

Currently, the registry includes information on four watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay southeast of Washington, D.C., including portions of Charles and Prince George's Counties, Mattawoman Creek, Port Tobacco, Zekiah Swamp and the Piscataway Creek. The registry is being expanded to cover the entire state of Maryland.



This draft map overlay from the image on page 1 shows, in graduated shades of green, areas appropriate for wetland preservation. The deeper shades represent the best areas.

Ralph Spagnolo, biologist for EPA Region III, served as the principal project manager for this project.

"These four watersheds boast significant natural resources, including spawning areas and nurseries for migratory fish, supporting several waterfowl and are used by more than 150 species of birds for migration," said Spagnolo.

The Zekiah Creek Watershed contains the largest hardwood swamp in Maryland, and is home to rare and federally endangered plants, insects and birds and is one of Maryland's most important oyster ground.

Mattawoman Creek supports a $25 million largemouth bass fishery. Despite their high value, these resources are at risk of wetland conversion to upland development, increased stormwater discharge and other cumulative impacts associated with future development."

Although the pilot program is tailored to this area, it can be nationally transferred because of its commonly available databases and layers.

Expected to be completed in 2010, the Watershed Resources Registry, when used in conjunction with a regional manager's expertise and best professional judgement, will help show where multiple ecological benefits can be found.

Rather than selecting a site simply based on a single agency's need, a selected area can now fulfill multiple beneficial watershed needs and regulatory requirements for several agencies at the same time.

Baltimore District deployments

Baltimore District has 23 people deployed in support of overseas operations. Shown (left to right) are Sandra Zelen, OP; James Killion, BAO; and Ronald Cates, EN, who deployed this summer.

Baltimore District Organization Day Picnic 2010

Photos by Michael Cleveland, Fred Furney and Lisa Morris

Storm given names based on rotating schedule

By Tina Carlsen
Public Affairs Office

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, announced in May that they are expecting an "active to extremely active" hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin this year.

NOAA scientists monitor evolving weather conditions and will issue an updated hurricane outlook early this month, just prior to what is historically the peak period for hurricane activity.

Across the entire Atlantic Basin for the six-month season, which began June 1, NOAA is projecting a 70 percent probability of the following ranges:

• 14 to 23 named storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:

• 8 to 14 hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which:

• 3 to 7 could be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 111 mph).

Storms are given names that are short and distinctive in both written and spoken communication. This is done because it's quicker and subject to less error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods.

These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, coastal bases, and ships at sea, according to the NOAA website.

Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center in 1953. They are maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meterological Organization. Originally, the lists featured only women's names. Men's names were introduced in 1979 and are alternated with the women's names. Six lists are used in rotation. For example, the 2010 list will be used again in 2016.

The only time a change is made to the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be insensitive. Several names have been changed since the lists were created. For example, on the 2007 list (which will be used again in 2013), Dorian has replaced Dean, Fernand has replaced Felix, and Nestor has replaced Noel.

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet such as Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta.

The 2010 names are: Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tomas, Virinie and Walter.

(Photo courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Hurricane Alex is shown here moving toward landfall 130 miles to the south-southeast of Brownsville, Texas on June 30. Alex is the first June hurricane since 1995. Hurricane name lists now feature both men's and women's names.

Baltimore District pledges safety excellence

By John Houvener
Safety and Occupational Health Office

What is safety excellence? Safety excellence is not the opposite of mediocrity. Safety excellence is not generated by more of the same, only faster, quicker and harder.

Safety excellence is achieved by re-focusing on the things that can make a difference and pledging to maintain a culture of "the safe way is the right way."

This is done through leadership and employee involvement, worksite analysis and training.

Everyone must pledge to be a part of the solution in order to achieve safety excellence.

The Baltimore District has chosen Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program, or VPP, as the baseline for our Safety Management System.

The Corps has developed and implemented programs and processes that fit within the VPP criteria and are focused on effectively identifying, evaluating, preventing, and controlling the hazards employees are exposed to every day. The goal is to make safety a part of everything they do.

There are critical requirements that apply to all organizations but especially to organizations like the Baltimore District, whose workload is so dynamic and diverse.

These critical requirements require a culture of beliefs and Pledges of Excellence which, when embraced by all, can and will enable employees to ***Re-define Operational Safety Excellence***, and achieve safety success.

Excellent organizations frequently achieve exceptional safety results in the absence of any visible safety program or oversight, and excellent safety performance cannot be attained unless we all put our hearts into it.

Safety is nothing more than a byproduct of doing things right all the time.

Baltimore District's Safety Pledges of Excellence

Pledge #1 – We must improve our processes. Safety is not about preventing accidents; safety is all about improving the process.

Pledge #2 – We won't be involved in at-risk behavior. Employee behaviors do not cause accidents; accidents are caused by the reasons for at-risk employee behavior.

Pledge #3 – We must identify our problems and fix them. Accidents are not the problem; the problems are the problem.

Pledge #4 – Safety must be a part of our Business Processes. The business process determines all business outcomes, of which safety is a key.

Pledge #5 – We must continually evaluate our systems. Employees work in the system; managers work on the system; the system produces accidents; employees sustain injuries.

Pledge #6 – Risk assessment and management must be an essential part of everything we do. To increase the bottom line, everyone must effectively manage the risks we face every day.

Pledge #7 – We must understand that safety performance is a clear and reflective measure of our values, competencies, and operational processes (systems).

Pledge #8 – Everyone matters. A core truth is deeply embedded within the value systems of organizations that repeatedly generate poor safety performance, and it is: accidents happen! We must remember that when accidents happen, people get hurt or killed.

Pledge #9 – Safety must never be the responsibility of a staff function or a committee. Safety must always be the obligation of managers, supervisors, employees, and on-site QA personnel. In other words, safety is everyone's responsibility.

Pledge #10 – We must have a disciplined approach to everything we do. A disciplined approach will always increase the level of safe behavior in a workplace.

Property loss, damage system changes

The Report of Survey system has a new name, Financial Liability Investigation for Property Loss, and a new form, DD 200, but the process has remained the same. A FLIPL is initiated when there has been damage or loss of government property.

"When submitting a DD 200, employees should ensure that they furnish the complete circumstances of the loss or damage of government property and that all supporting documents are attached, said Vickie Rohr, Logistics Management Office chief. Supporting documents for a vehicle accident would be vehicle estimates, pictures, witness statement, vehicle accident report. Care and safeguarding of government property can prevent processing FLIPLs. The FLIPL and supporting documents are processed through an employee's chain of command to their division chief. Division chiefs attach a cover memo to the FLIPL stating they have reviewed and put their liability recommendation. The FLIPL is forwarded to the Logistics Management Office for administrative processing then forwarded to the Baltimore District commander. For more information on completing a FLIPL, contact Vickie Rohr at (410) 962-0670.

A Standard Operating Procedure on the FLIPL has been written and is currently being reviewed by Division Chiefs. The SOP is expected to be published later this month.

(Photo by Lisa Morris)

Ridin' green

In mid-June, Baltimore District leased a Ford Fusion hybrid car from the General Services Administration.

This is currently the only Hybrid in the District's inventory, but Executive Office driver Dean Rodbourn says that eventually the entire inventory will be replaced with hybrids.

The car gets 35-40 miles per gallon, but as a hybrid, it does not run on gas all of the time. It works on electric mode as much as it can and it tells the driver how many miles it has to go until it needs to be filled up again.

"I drove the hybrid to Harrisburg, Penn., which is about 75 miles. The car rode very smoothly, and was easy to operate," said Joe Ignatius, Flood Risk Management Branch chief. "The only problem was, this was the first time I had driven a hybrid, and I didn't know you had to depress the accelerator when starting the engine."

If you drive the hybrid, push the accelerator all the way down to the floor when you turn the ignition. This kicks the electric mode into gear and starts the engine.

Baltimore District's "Check It" Program: Engineering Division

(Photo by Fred Furney)

The in-house design team for the fiscal 2011 Asymmetric Warfare Group Indoor Firing Range discusses updates to the current drawing set. Checks like this help ensure the customer gets exactly what they want and need. The purpose of the Check It program is to remind us of the importance of double-checking ourselves and our work for safety and accuracy. Each month, the Constellation focuses on a different organization.

Baltimore District's "A Culture of Discipline" *Planning Division*

(Photo by Fred Furney)

According to her supervisors, Anna Compton, a study manager and biologist in the civil project development branch in Planning Division has developed into a rising star in a very short time. Since arriving at the District in January 2009, she has demonstrated the organizational, communication and leadership skills necessary to create and foster highly functional project delivery teams. As a result, these teams are able to advance the Corps' projects toward construction and at the same time solve some of the Corps' sponsors' problems.

New library books

The following books have recently been added to the District Library: Geologic Modeling and Mapping; First, Break All the Rules; Nothing but Praise: A History of the 1321st Engineer General Service Regiment; and Portrait of the Tribal Liaison Program, 1987 - 2005.

In the Green Building category, Engineering Guide to LEED New Construction – Sustainable Construction for Engineers, LEED Practices, Certification, and Accreditation Handbook, Green Building Materials - A Guide to Product Selection and Specification (2nd edition), and ASHRAE Green Guide - The Design, Construction, and Operation of Sustainable Buildings (2nd edition).

The library is located in the City Crescent Building, Room 9000-W and is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call District Librarian Steve Brooks at (410) 962-3423.

Our Proud Past

This series presents vignettes from Baltimore District's history. We welcome contributions from long-time employees and retirees.

The history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' involvement in what used to be called "internal improvements," now called "civil works," goes back early in our nation's history.

The following is excerpted from *The Mid-Atlantic Engineers,* available in the District Library.

"After the American Revolution, the mayor [of Baltimore] appointed a Board of Port Wardens to ... keep navigation channels open.... From 1798 on, the city spent money dredging its inner harbor.

"Outer-harbor improvement depended on the federal government.... In 1830, the Army Engineers surveyed the harbor and in 1836 Congress appropriated $20,000 for deepening the entrance channels....Congress placed the money in the hands of the Board of Port Wardens, and...the Board used it to hire the dredging apparatus belonging to the city. By 1838, an additional $35,000 of federal money had been spent on dredging the Patapsco. The Engineer Dept. requested that Congress appropriate $25,000 annually for the harbor's maintenance. But after 1838 river-and-harbor improvements encountered vociferous political and constitutional criticism, Baltimore harbor received no more federal funds until 1852."

This project, part of our proud past, is still in use today. The full article is available in the District Library, City Crescent Building, Rm. 9000-W.

Information provided by Steve Brooks, District librarian.

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Official Business

Baltimore Newsmakers

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Welcome to... Sikhiu Huynh and **James Earwood**, CO; **Sal Van Wert**, EN; **Noel Walk**, OP; **Arthur White** and **Demeterius Harman**, WA; **Dan Shear**, **Sandra Tucker** and **Daniel Dale**, RSFO; **Kimberly Forte**, EN; and **Benjamin Smith**, WA.

Congratulations to... Marybeth Walker, EN, on her promotion; **Benjamin Alexander**, EN, on his marriage; **Steve Sporer**, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanewsque Lakes, on the birth of his son; **Katie Brown**, CO, on passing her Fundamentals of Engineering exam on her first attempt; **Minh Tran**, EN, on the birth of his daughter; **Nakieta Mitchell**, WA, on the birth of her son; **Kevin Cook**, APG-IPO, **Colette Day**, CT, and **Nina Albritton**, RSFO, on their CP-14 Intern Program graduation; **Jenn Szymaski**, RSFO, on the birth of her son and **Douglas Schuler**, RSFO, on his promotion.

Transfers... Will Harper from RSFO to Department of Army.

Sympathy to... Tamika Gray, EX, on the loss of her nephew, **Janet Beucler**, EN, on the loss of her mother; **Donald Rose, Jr.,** WA, on the loss of his father, Donald Rose, Sr., a former WA employee; **J. Woody Peterson**, WA, on the loss of his father.

Farewell and best wishes to Pax Whipple, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanewsque Lakes, who retired after 34 years of service with the Corps.

(Courtesy photo)

Farewell to... Marcella Holloway, OP; **Phillip Patton**, **Stephanie Branham, Jerraime Duncan** and **James Jones**, WA; and **Jean Nicolas** and **Dan Ooley**, RSFO, who are deploying to Afghanistan.

Thanks to... the **Baltimore District** from **Adam Larrimore** and **Christanne Haught**, for all the beautiful flowers, thoughtful cards, support and expressions of sympathy in the passing of their beloved Grandmother and Mother-in-law, Ann Haught; "**Corps Family**" from **Gloria Frost** for all the calls, cards and expressions of condolences during the passing of her mother.